

## **Module 9** **The Code of Ethics and the Ethical Practice Board** Foreword, Code of Ethics, and Chapter 12 (.1 CEUs)

### **Learner Outcomes**

Participants will be able to:

- a. Describe how a Code of Ethics promotes professionalism
- b. Describe how to report a suspected violation of the Code of Ethics
- c. Identify the steps in the process of deliberation of an ethics complaint
- d. Describe the procedures for reporting a suspected violation

### **Learner Assessment tool**

Please circle the correct answer

1. According to Therese Walden's foreword, In the six years since the first edition, what has not changed is
  - a. That gift giving and gift receipt remains a major concern of ethicists in the medical fields
  - b. That a sense of calling still leads us to seek to examine our professional core values
  - c. That a well-defined code of ethics is still required
  - d. All of the above
2. Which is NOT an option when presented with an ethical dilemma?
  - a. Review this book and EPB publications to determine if an appropriate approach to solving the dilemma is discussed
  - b. Review the material on the Academy website for guidance, including the links to other ethics sites
  - c. Mail or email the Academy's EPB with a specific inquiry if the dilemma is not one discussed in the Academy's written material
  - d. Phone the Academy Ethics Answer Line for immediate advice on handling your personal situation
3. If you submit a report of an ethics violation, and the member is found to be in violation of the *Code*:
  - a. You will receive a copy of the final finding and violation after the case has exhausted all appeals and a final decision is reached
  - b. You will receive a de-identified copy of the finding and decision after the case has exhausted all appeals and a final decision is reached
  - c. You will be informed of the decision on whether the case was a violation of the *Code*, but will not be informed about the discipline issued
  - d. You will not be informed of the decision; however, the de-identified decisions on most cases are published in *Audiology Today*, and the member may review these findings

4. The question relates to confidentiality and anonymity of ethical complaints. If you suspect an ethics violation:
  - a. You may report it anonymously, but that may compromise the EPB's ability to investigate the case
  - b. You are under no obligation to report it, but if you do, procedures require you to provide a notarized, signed complaint
  - c. You may phone in anonymous message, and the EPB will investigate
  - d. Anonymous complaints are not allowed because you must first warn your colleague. Violations of the *Code* are adjudicated only after other local professionals have attempted to resolve the issue
5. If a member feels that the EPB has not fully understood the circumstances of the case, may the member provide new clarifying information at the appeal to the Board of Directors?
  - a. No. The member is responsible for providing all information to the EPB initially when contacted with a "Notification of Potential Ethical Concern," and can provide additional information when requesting a Reconsideration of the EPB finding. However, the BOD is an appeals body and will not accept new information, as that would effectively make the BOD the body that decides the cases, rather than only addresses appeals
  - b. Yes. But only if the case was opened before January 2006 as the revised *Code* will prohibit the BOD from accepting new information, which would place the BOD in the decision-making situation
  - c. Yes. While it is recognized that some members may abuse this, providing information at appeal that cannot be verified and may have resulted in a different decision by EPB, the Board has ruled that it is better to err to the benefit of the member
  - d. Yes. It is a longstanding tradition of the Academy that new information can be provided at any stage in the process; there is no harm in having as much information as possible to arrive at a just conclusion
6. A member is found to have violated the *Code of Ethics*, but the EPB believes the act was unintentional, and the member's response indicates that the member now recognizes the problem and notes that the violation will not recur. The least punitive sanction that is available is:
  - a. An educative letter sent privately to the member
  - b. Member acceptance of a private Cease and Desist Order with no other penalty invoked
  - c. A letter of reprimand, sent privately to the member
  - d. Mandatory continuing education along with the member's agreement to a Cease and Desist Order
7. The membership renewal form asks if the audiologist has been convicted of a violation of their state licensing law. It is permissible to answer in the negative if that violation was unrelated to patient care, e.g. if the violation was for late renewal of the license
  - a. True
  - b. False
8. The Ethical Practices Committee is authorized to ask state licensure and registration boards to provide information on audiologists who have had actions taken against their license/registration
  - a. True
  - b. False

9. All Ethical Practice Committee decisions in that entail a member penalty must be unanimous.
  - a. True
  - b. False
10. Appeals of Ethical Practice Committee decisions are made to the Board of Directors, who will know the identity of the person whose case is before them.
  - a. True
  - b. False